(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the period since when the Grade II posts lying vacant;

(d) the date of the last DPC held for promoting Grade III officers to Grade II; and

(e) what action is now being contemplated in processing promotions for these officers and the possible time needed to accomplish the task ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) Several Grade III officers of Central Information Service (now Senior Grade of Indian Information Service Group 'B') having long years of service in the grade could not be promoted so far for the reason that the seniority in different grades of the service had to be revised twice since 1987 in compliance with the court judgements;

(c) Vacancies in Grade II of the Service (now Junior Grade of Indian Information Service, Group 'A') pertain to the years 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993;

(d) The last Departmental Promotion Committee for promotion to Grade II was held in June, 1990;

(e) A proposal to fill 10 vacancies in Grade II of the Indian Information Service has been referred to the appropriate body.

Launching of 3rd Doordarshan Channel for entertainment

202. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has since launched its 3rd Channel for entertainment and Cultural Programmes;

(b) if so, the salient features of these programmes; and

(c) whether it would adequately cover the entire country, if so, how and to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present only the programmes of the metro channel of Doordarshan between 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. (films/film based programmes/serials etc.) are being uplinked for reception in all parts of the country (except Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta where they are also available terrestrially) through appropriate dish antenna.

Registration of the members of A.T.C.I.

203. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman and all the non-official members of the A.T.C.I. (Air Time Committee of India) resigned en-block from the committee;

(b) if so, in what circumstances and what reasons were assigned therefor;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government propose to reconstitute the Committee; and

(e) if so, by when ?